



Flyway

Jan / Mar 2006

DAS Annual Conference April 1, 2006
At the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center
Featuring:
Leader of Ivory-billed Search &
Wacky Bird Professor



There are several new things about Detroit Audubon's Annual Conference this year. For starters IT'S FREE. It's being held at the Detroit Zoo's new Ford Education Center. And the two are connected—Ford Motor Company which donated the center is underwriting a large share of the conferences expenses. So is DTE Energy which is cosponsoring our conference for the fourth year! And we have quite a line-up:

Our speaker, Dr. Lammertink, Science Advisor to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Ivory-billed Search Team, has been in the field on the search since November 2004. Originally

from the Netherlands, Lammertink, is an international expert on large woodpeckers and has surveyed extensively for Imperial and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in Mexico and Cuba. A video of the rediscovered Ivory-billed Woodpecker will highlight the presentation by Dr. Lammertink.

Professor Avian Guano, Bir D. (a.k.a. Denny Olson) is also expected to drop in. His legendary mimicry of bird songs and goofy stories impart a solid knowledge of fascinating bird lore. Denny Olson, an award-winning environmental educator/actor/ performer, comes to us from the wilds of Montana. Be sure to bring your children. If you know of a school that might like Dr. Guano or one of Denny Olson's other characters (e.g. Critterman) to do a presentation on Thursday March 30 or Friday March 31st, call the Detroit Audubon office and let us know (248-545-2929). His website: <http://www.crittermansworld.com>

Dr. Ron Kagan, Director of the Detroit Zoo, will stop by to welcome us and to give us an update on Winky and Wanda, the Detroit Zoo's elderly elephants that were relocated. Dr. Tom Schneider, Curator of Birds, will give a presentation about the zoo's efforts to help recover the Piping Plover in Michigan. Dr. Andy Snyder, Curator of Reptiles, will talk about the zoo's similar efforts in the field to protect the endangered Massasauga Rattlesnake and the Karner Blue Butterfly.

We are also fortunate to have the singing and instrumental talents of Julie Beutel to add music to this year's conference. Julie has sung at many Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations, countless peace rallies, Noel Night at the Detroit Cultural Center, Focus Hope's Annual Fund-raiser and hosts concerts with some of the best musicians around.

You'll also be able to view the 40th Annual Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibit sponsored by the London Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife magazine, which is making its North American Debut at Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Building. The winning entries are dramatically displayed as illuminated large-format color transparencies showcasing the finest wildlife pictures taken by photographers worldwide. For the nominal fee of \$5, children can complete an art project under the direction of zoo education staff in the zoo's new wildlife art studio. Plus, we're having a silent auction on nature items and experiences!

The Detroit Zoo is offering a unique birding tour of the zoo grounds before the zoo opens and before the conference formally gets under way. An aviary feeding will be offered as part of this morning's bird tour. It will also be available after the conference concludes at 12:30 p.m.

The zoo has also offered reduced admission for those who want to stay the rest of the day. If you want \$2 off your admission, you must send in the registration form and pay for your admission in advance. We will either send you the tickets or give them to you at registration. The zoo is offering our members docent led tours of the zoo in the afternoon for no additional charge other than the reduced zoo admission.

Everyone will enter through Administrative Gate #4, park in the large lot near the Ford Education Center. This is the Ford Center's event gate, which will be open so you can enter the main entrance of the building.

Those coming to the early morning bird hike must register (see Registration Form on Page 2) because the guard will need a list of names to admit you to the zoo before it opens.

*While zoo parking and the DAS Annual Conference are **free**, donations will be gratefully accepted.*

Flyway

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Flyway Editor: Sue Beattie

Flyway Layout/Design: Don Tinson II

The Detroit Audubon Society Mission Statement

The mission of Detroit Audubon is to promote awareness of the
environment through education and participation. We feel that
the environment is best served by a knowledgeable citizenry
and that bird watching is the vehicle for developing an inclusive
understanding of natural history.

The Society supports activities to foster the preservation of
habitat, clean air and water, and conservation of land and
other natural resources.

While our organization endorses the goals of the National
Audubon Society, the efforts of Detroit Audubon Society, in
furthering the above goals, will be conducted locally.

Adopted October 13, 1999

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detas@bignet.net

DETROIT AUDUBON ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

We need the names of EVERYONE attending the morning bird hike to allow you early zoo entrance.
If you plan to visit the zoo afterwards, you must PREPAY the reduced admission price shown below.
The \$5 fee for each child's Wildlife Art Studio Project must also be PREPAID.
For more information, call the DAS Office, 248-545-2929.

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____



Name (Attendees)	Adult (A) Child (C) Senior (S)	7:00 A.M. Bird Hike (Y or N)	P.M. Aviary Feeding (Y or N)	P.M. Docent Tour (Y or N)	Children's Art Project \$5	Zoo Admission* (Only if visiting zoo in afternoon)	Subtotals
					\$	\$	\$
					\$	\$	\$
					\$	\$	\$
					\$	\$	\$
					\$	\$	\$

* Reduced Zoo Admission: Adult \$9, Child (2-12 yrs) \$5, Senior \$6

Donation to DAS to help defray cost of conference: \$

GRAND TOTAL: \$

Please make check payable to: Detroit Audubon Society

Mail this completed registration form and your check to: DAS, 1320 N. Campbell Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067

DAS FIELD TRIPS

Belle Isle

February 18, 2006 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Fred Charbonneau and Jim Bull

A great time to see waterfowl up close without having to venture too far from the heat of your car.

Meet at the Nature Center parking lot on Belle Isle.

Owl Prowl, Stony Creek Metropark

March 11, 2006 (Saturday) 7:00 p.m.

Leaders: Doug Spiller (supervisory naturalist at Stony Creek) and Jim Bull

Unbelievably, Great Horned Owls have already been nesting since early February and Barred Owls are just beginning to nest this time of year. Since they are defending their territories, playing an owl tape or imitating their call will not only get them to hoot in response but often get them to fly in, giving close-up looks. The small Screech Owl nests later but it also responds to calls this time of year.

From I-75 exit on M-59 East, then go north on M-53. Exit at 26 Mile Road. Go west on 26 Mile Road to the park entrance. We will meet either at the nature center or at the golf course parking lot. Check our website for more details closer to this date or call the Detroit Audubon office at 248-545-2929.

Lower Detroit River, Lake Erie Shoreline

March 18, 2006 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Steve Santner

This trip should coincide with the first push of spring migrants and if recent history repeats itself, there is a chance for owls as well.

Take I-75 to Gibraltar Road. Go east toward Gibraltar, turn right on Jefferson and drive south to the Lake Erie Metro Park entrance on your left. Entrance fee required. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot.

Frog Symphony, Blue Herons, Great Horned Owls - West Bloomfield Nature Preserve

April 7, 2006 (Friday) 7:15 p.m.


Leaders: Sally Petrella, David Mifsud (both of Friends of the Rouge) and Jim Bull

Join us for an evening of listening to and hunting for frogs. We'll start out the trip watching nesting Great Blue Herons from an observation platform. Wood Ducks and other waterfowl are possible. Last year a Great Horned Owl nest with two young was visible in the middle of the heron rookery. Sally Petrella coordinates the Rouge River Frog Watch program. This field trip is cosponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and Friends of the Rouge. This program is especially good for children.

From Telegraph Road, go west on Long Lake Road to where it dead-ends at Orchard Lake. Turn left and go to the next traffic light. Turn right on to Pontiac Trail. Take Pontiac Trail and look for the sign, "West Bloomfield Nature Preserve" at Arrowhead Road. Follow signs to preserve parking lot.

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BOOKSTORE BITS

By Bev Stevenson

It's January - cold, snowy. You've got the after holiday doldrums and want an exciting way to spend some time in the warm comfort of your own home? How about a great DVD on the reintroduction of the Osprey in Southern Michigan? It goes into the details of the first Osprey to return to Kensington Metropark and nest successfully.

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SPRING CAMPOUT

Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center, Hale, MI

Friday, May 26 - Monday, May 29, 2006

Memorial Day Weekend

Leaders: Jim Bull and Rosemarie Attilio (Detroit Audubon)

Jeanette Henderson and Peggy Ridgway (Michigan Audubon)

Once again Detroit Audubon and Michigan Audubon Societies are joining forces to sponsor a weekend of birds, learning and lots of fun at beautiful Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat (formerly know as Camp Mahn-Go-Tah-See) near Hale, Michigan. Located in Iosco County, it offers a prime spot to enjoy Northern Michigan's birds and scenic wonders. In the past, birders have been thrilled with sightings of Piping Plover, Whimbrels, Western Meadowlarks, nesting Merlins, Pileated Woodpeckers, Black-throated Blue Warblers and more. Field trips will include the scenic Rifle River Recreation Area, Tawas Point State Park, Tuttle Marsh, Kirtland's Warbler viewing area, challenge course and maybe even a canoe trip to visit the local Loon Ranger. Expect the weekend to be filled with great food, educational programs and new friends as both Detroit and Michigan Audubon Society members join together to enjoy Michigan's natural heritage. This weekend is perfect for the whole family to enjoy.

Weekend package includes:

Eight meals (Saturday through Monday) and snacks

Field trips

Evening programs

Three night's accommodations

So mark your calendars and look for a registration form in the next newsletter.

For a peek at the retreat center visit their website at: www.loonlakeretreat.org

For more information: Contact Jim Bull 313-928-2950 (jbull51264@aol.com) or

Jeanette Henderson 517-886-9144 (programcoordinator@michiganaudubon.org).

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Anyone interested in doing any kind of volunteering:

habitat preservation, school presentations, bookkeeping, phone calling, letter writing, taking the DAS exhibit to events put on by us and other organizations, educational forums and other situations that arise from time to time, send your e-mail addresses to:

detaudubon@aol.com

Many of these volunteer opportunities can be used by students looking for ways to get their community service hours for the MEEP scholarship.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER PUT IN JEOPARDY BY CUTS URGENT ACTION NEEDED

The recovery effort for the endangered Kirtland's Warbler has been a phenomenal success, increasing the population from a precarious 167 pairs to over 1400 pairs. The two essential components of that effort have been the creation of more habitat and control of the Brown-headed Cowbird which parasitizes the Kirtland's Warbler. The cowbird lays its eggs in the Kirtland's nests and the cowbird young survive at the expense of the Kirtland's young. Before cowbird trapping began, only an average of 0.51 Kirtland's young fledged per nest. That number has increased to over 3 with cowbird control. Each year the US Fish and Wildlife Service has removed about 4,000 cowbirds. As a result parasitism has been virtually non-existent until the 2005 nesting season.

In late April 2005, the US Fish and Wildlife Service made substantial cuts to the cowbird control program. The number of traps was cut from 64 to 40, even as Kirtland's Warbler expanded into new areas. The number of trap days (days operated x number of traps) was cut from over 4,000 to just over 2,000. The number of cowbirds trapped dropped from 4,000 to just over 1,000 - a drop of 75%. This means that Kirtland's parasitism has gone up. Fewer young have survived and the population's upward trend will surely be halted and a steady decline is just around the corner.

We have learned that the cowbird control program funding has been kept at the same reduced level for 2006. It is our understanding that full funding of this program would only be about \$45,000. If this is allowed to stand, the Kirtland's Warbler will be driven to the brink of extinction again. This fiscal matter makes no sense. It puts in jeopardy the already huge investment that the US Forest Service and Michigan DNR have made in habitat restoration work over the last 20 years.

Please write your congressional representative, especially Rep. Knollenberg and Rep. Kilpatrick, who are both on the Appropriations Committee which makes funding decisions. Sen. Stabenow and Sen. Levin are important officials to write as well. Ask them to make sure full funding is restored to the Kirtland's Warbler Protection Program including cowbird trapping for 2006 and perpetuity. Ask them to explain what actions they have taken.

To find out who your congressional representative is go to <http://www.house.gov/> and click on "Write Your Representative." You will be asked for your zipcode and it will then bring up your congressional representative's contact information. The contact information for Knollenberg, Kilpatrick, Levin and Stabenow is listed below.

Rep. Joseph Knollenberg (11th district)

2349 RHOB 202-225-5802
US House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515
www.house.gov/knollenberg
Local phone: 248-851-1366

Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

1610 LHOB 202-225-2361
US House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515
www.house.gov/kilpatrick
Local phones: Detroit 313-965-9004
Wyandotte 734-246-0780

Sen. Carl Levin

US Senate
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
senator@levin.senate.gov
202-224-6221
313-226-6020
596-573-9145

Sen. Debbie Stabenow

US Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
202-224-4822
313-961-4330

Please send copies of the replies you receive to the Detroit Audubon office:

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For more information please go to www.detroitaudubon.org

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Thank You for your support!

Welcome to Our New Members!

Mr. Ryan Allingham	Ms. Elizabeth S. Kott	Ms. Victoria Sargente	Mary-John Becic	Mr. Russ C. Epker	Mr. Mickey Kwapis	Ms. Janice Piowar
Mr. Henry F. Barry	Mr. Kerrin Kresnak	Ms. Donna Saunders	Ms. Liz Bizoe	Vernamae Eplett	Hae Kyung, Kim	Mr. Joel H. Plotkin
Catherine L. Carroll	Mr. Robert Kyes	Mr. Milton Savich	Catherine L. Carroll	Ms. Lorne Forstner	Mr. Harold P. Langrill	Ms. Mary Prosic
Sarah Crawford	Duncan Lawrence	Robert Sawitski	Ms. Tracie Chutorash	Ms. Betty Gifford	Mr. Mike Lanham	Ms. Dolores F. Reynolds
Ms. Nancy Devine	Mr. Arthur Layzell	Andrew Schaeffler	Kerry Clare, Duggan	Mr. Michael Gratham	Mr. & Mrs. Mayburn	Mr. Arnie R. Riggs
Kimberly A. Fox	Mr. Charles Lehmann	Ms. Sharon Sommers	Mr. Dave Clark, Family	Ms. Lynne A. Hammill	Mr. Donald J. Mc Carty	Ms. Bernice Ruth
Jesse Gonzalez	Ms. Diana R. Lucchesi	Mr. Jim St. Louis	Ms. Lillian Cohl	Mr. Mark Harris	Ms. Cindy Mertz	Ms. Janet L. Schihl
Mr. Rodney J. Grambeau	Ms. Judy Mace	Ms. Jessica Stewart	Joyce Condra	Mr. Tim Hill	Mrs. Gail Y. Meshew	Slomka
Ms. Gloria Greenley	Harvard J. Marczak	Ms. Nancy Stewart	Mr. George Covintree	Ms. Pamela Hoose	Mrs. Donald Meyers	Mr. Phillip Smitley
Mr. Fred T. Haddock	Ms. Kathleen Muscillo	Ms. Theresa Sutliff	Ms. Bobbi Coyne	Mr. Richard Hore	Mr. Ken Miller	Mr. Philip Stendel
Mr. George Hardy	Carolyn Osolind	Ms. Debbie Thompson	Deneil Dallolmo	Mr. Leonard Houfek	Ms. Regina Morely	Glenn Taylor
Ms. Arlene Hart	Mr. Eugene Pettis	Mrs. Thomas Townsend	Mr. Dennis Darga	Mr. Jeremy Johnson	Thales Nabring	Mr. Jason J. Taylor
Mr. Thomas P. Higgins	Ms. Janice L. Platonas	Mahmoud Abbas	Ms. Lynette Davis	Ms. Elizabeth Keeler	Sally-Maryann Obara	Ms. Emily Thompson
Mr. Joseph Karner	Ms. Clara J. Rigsby	Evelyn Barrett	Ms. Brenda Deidrich	Mr. Kevin Kerwin	Kris Parnicky	R Whittaker
Lynn Keidan, Segel	Ms. Geraldine Robbins	Ms. Darlene Bartlett	Mr. Stuart F. Doherty	Ms. Dawn Kirkman	Ms. Sharon Paul	Mr. John Whittier-Ferguson
James Koppin	Philipa A. Sahiner	Mr. John M. Becic	Ms. Lisa Drouillard	Marion Knisely	J Phillips	

DETROIT AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

-DOWNRIVER-

Detroit Audubon's Downriver monthly program is held from 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month (Sept through May) at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 1123 Second St., Wyandotte 48192. Go east on Goddard Rd., turn right on First Street. Turn right on Goodell. The church will be on your left. The church is on Goodell between First and Second Street. Enter from the alley door and go down to the basement community room (stairs or elevator).

Which Way to Go? Finding Our Way with a Moral Compass to the Environment

Thursday Feb. 16, 2006

Speaker: Dr. Leonard J. Weber. Professor of Ethics, University of Detroit Mercy

We make decisions about the public policies we support and about the way we live our lives based, to a significant extent, on the moral or ethical framework that we use to interpret issues or information and to draw conclusions about our responsibilities. Without getting into a debate about who is a true environmentalist, this presentation and discussion will demonstrate that it is possible to identify a set of beliefs and ethical principles that, if widely accepted, are likely to lead to a decrease or elimination of many environmentally destructive practices.

Discovering the Evolutionary History of Woodpeckers

Thursday March 16, 2006

Speaker: Dr. William Moore, Professor of Biology, Wayne State University

Through molecular analysis of genes, it is possible to determine levels of relatedness among species and hence to reconstruct the "Tree of Life," the evolutionary history of diversity on earth. Dr. Moore will discuss how this was done, based on his research at Wayne State University. Dr. Moore has more recently become involved in the National Sciences Foundation program called the "Assembling the Tree of Life," doing detective work to better understand the early evolution of all modern birds.

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If you would like to receive notices about membership meetings, field trips, and other time sensitive material, please send your e-mail address to detas@bignet.net. Simply type the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Please include at least your name in the message area of your e-mail. We will only send out a few e-mails a month and you can ask to be removed at any time. E-mail will help save postage and paper costs -- and will allow us to give you speedy notification of events.

FEATHERED TALES

By Bev Stevenson



Mike Hufano, from New Mexico, was visiting his family in Ann Arbor last week. He was on Sunset Rd. by the St. Thomas Cemetery when he saw this large bird flying along the Huron River. He was surprised and excited to see a huge Bald Eagle.

Carolyn McBain, of Ypsilanti, thought it was most unusual to see at least 200 Cedar Waxwings all gathered in a tree at a rest stop along I-75 in October.

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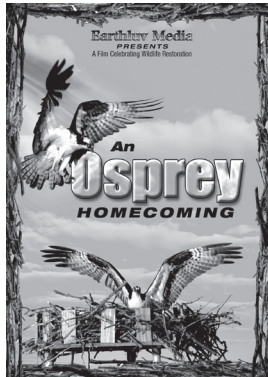
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RARE BIRD ALERT

The DAS's Rare Bird Alert is a recorded phone message listing unusual species seen in our area. The alert gives precise instructions on where to find listed species.

Phone (248) 477-1360 anytime.

Highlights of recent sightings are also periodically published on the Detroit Free Press 'Outdoors' page.

To report rare birds,
call Karl Overman, (248) 473-0484



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